

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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- 52. (Cancelled)

53. (New): A toothbrush comprising:

a handle, a head, and a neck extending between the handle and the head, the head having a top face and a bottom face opposite the top face, the top face comprising a plurality of cleaning elements, the bottom face having an opening therein, the opening having a perimeter;

an elastomeric element forming a portion of the rear face and having a perimeter, wherein the elastomeric element perimeter is in contact with the perimeter of the opening; and

a plurality of projections extending from the elastomeric element, wherein the projections are oriented in staggered rows.

54. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 53, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical nubs.

55. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 53, wherein the plurality of projections are generally in rows transverse to a longitudinal axis of the brush.

56. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 53, wherein the plurality of projections are generally in rows generally parallel with a longitudinal axis of the brush.

57. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 56, wherein the plurality of projections cover a substantial portion of the bottom face.

58. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 57, wherein the entire plurality of projections are uniform in shape.

59. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 53, wherein the plurality of projections are formed from an elastomeric material.

60. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 59, wherein the plurality of projections are nubs.

61. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 59, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical.

62. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 53, wherein the handle comprises a motor.

63. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 62, wherein the motor is configured to vibrate the elastomeric element.

64. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 53, wherein a first portion of the plurality of cleaning elements include tufts of bristles.

65. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 64, wherein a second portion of the plurality of cleaning elements include elastomeric cleaning elements.

66. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 65, wherein the second portion of the plurality of cleaning elements is disposed adjacent longitudinal sides of the head.

67. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 65, wherein the second portion of the plurality of cleaning elements and the elastomeric elements comprise styrene-ethylene-butadiene-styrene.

68. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 53, wherein the cleaning elements form a concave profile wherein a first portion of the plurality of cleaning elements adjacent to longitudinal sides of the head are taller than a second portion of the plurality of cleaning elements which are inboard of the first portion of the plurality of cleaning elements.

69. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 53, wherein a first portion of the plurality of cleaning elements are angled toward longitudinal sides of the head with respect to the top face.

70. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 68, wherein a second portion of the plurality of cleaning elements extend generally perpendicular to the top face, and wherein the second portion of the plurality of cleaning elements is disposed inboard of the first portion of the plurality of cleaning elements.

71. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 53, wherein a first portion of the plurality of cleaning elements are angled toward the handle.

72. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 53, wherein the perimeter of the opening surrounds the perimeter of the elastomeric element.

73. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 53, wherein the elastomeric element is disposed within the opening such that an interface between the perimeter of the elastomeric element and rear face is smooth.

74. (New): A toothbrush comprising:

a body having a handle, a head, and a neck extending between the handle and the head, the head having a front face and a rear face, and a side wall between the front face and the rear face, the rear face having an opening therein, the opening having a perimeter;

a massaging surface having a perimeter and being disposed in the opening such that the perimeter of the massaging surface is in contact with the perimeter of the opening;

a plurality of cleaning elements extending from the front face; and

a drive mechanism for vibrating the massaging surface.

75. (New): The toothbrush of claim 74, further comprising a bristle carrier disposed on the front face of the head, and wherein at least a portion of the plurality of bristle tufts are disposed in the bristle carrier.

76. (New): The toothbrush of claim 74, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a motor disposed within the body and a shaft operatively connected to the motor.

77. (New): The toothbrush of claim 76, wherein the shaft is disposed in the neck.

78. (New): The toothbrush of claim 77, wherein a portion of the drive mechanism is disposed within the head.

79. (New): The toothbrush of claim 78, wherein the massaging surface covers the portion of the drive mechanism disposed in the head.

80. (New): The toothbrush of claim 79, wherein the massaging surface has a smooth outer surface.

81. (New): The toothbrush of claim 74, wherein the massaging plate comprises at least one raised protrusion.

82. (New): The toothbrush of claim 74, wherein a portion of the drive mechanism is disposed in the neck.

83. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 74, wherein the massaging plate is formed from an elastomeric material and the toothbrush head is formed from a polymer selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polystyrene, polyethylene, acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer, cellulose acetate propionate, a thermoplastic elastomer, a thermoplastic olefin, a thermoplastic polyolefin, ethylene-vinylacetate copolymer, ethylene propylene rubber, and combinations thereof.

84. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 78, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a linking component disposed in the head and, and wherein the linking component extends toward the rear face.

85. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 74, wherein the massaging surface is elongate.

86. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 74, wherein the massaging surface comprises a plurality of projections which are formed from an elastomeric material.

87. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 86, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical nubs.

88. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 74, wherein the front face further comprises a plurality of elastomeric elements.

89. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 74, wherein the cleaning elements form a concave profile wherein a first portion of the plurality of cleaning elements adjacent to longitudinal sides of the head are taller than a second portion of the plurality of cleaning elements which are inboard of the first portion of the plurality of cleaning elements.

90. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 74, wherein a first portion of the plurality of cleaning elements are angled toward longitudinal sides of the head with respect to the top face.

91. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 90, wherein a second portion of the plurality of cleaning elements extend generally perpendicular to the top face, and wherein the second portion of the plurality of cleaning elements is disposed inboard of the first portion of the plurality of cleaning elements.

92. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 74, wherein a first portion of the plurality of cleaning elements are angled toward the handle.

93. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 74, wherein the perimeter of the opening surrounds the perimeter of the elastomeric element.

94. (New): The toothbrush of Claim 74, wherein the elastomeric element is disposed within the opening such that an interface between the perimeter of the elastomeric element and rear face is smooth.

95. (New): A toothbrush comprising:

- a body having a handle, a head, and a neck extending between the handle and the head, the head having a front face and a rear face, and a side wall between the front face and rear face;

- a plurality of cleaning elements extending from the front face;

- a massaging surface disposed on the head; and

- a drive mechanism for imparting motion to at least a portion of the plurality of bristle tufts and to the massaging surface.

96. (New): A toothbrush comprising:

- a body having a handle, a head, and a neck extending between the handle and the head, the head having a front face and a rear face, the rear face having an opening therein, the opening having a perimeter, and wherein the rear face comprises a first material;

- a plurality of cleaning elements extending from the front face; and

- a massaging surface forming a portion of the rear face and being formed of a second material, wherein a portion of the cleaning elements are comprised of the second material, and wherein the first material and the second material are different.